the ecumenical COURIER

HOLBROOK LIBRARY
PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

Christmas: The Promise of Peace

hristmas has become everybody's festival. celebrated by Christians and non-Christians, s celebrated in churches and cinemas, in es and restaurants.

s this not as it should be? After all the Pro- ie of St. John speaks of the light that en- tens every man. The Christmas fact is indeed ct of universal significance, it has to do with salvation of humanity, it is therefore every- y's business.

o far so good. But St. John speaks of the light that enlightens every man. Christmas s not speak of light in general, not of the less sequence of days after night or of sum- after winter. It deals with the true, the uine light that God sent and this light is is Christ, God who comes in the flesh. If celebrate Christmas on December 25th this ue to the fact that in the early centuries was the day of the festival of Sol Invictus, Invincible Sun. And the Christians set their ival of the true light *over against* such nature ship.

hristmas is the universal festival. But only, remains the festival celebrating the unique rvention of God in history. Its true univer- y depends on its rootedness in the great l of God in Jesus Christ.

(Continued on page 3)

. . . Ye did it not unto Me . . .

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU?

The Annual N.C.C. Christmas Appeal
FOR CHRIST IN ASIA

This picture of a carving by an Indonesian, given to churches in New Zealand in appreciation for their help, is being used as the cover picture for the annual Christian appeal of the National Council of Churches in New Zealand.

VEMBER — DECEMBER, 1960 VOL. 19, NO. 6

The World of Books

Facing Protestant-Roman Catholic Tensions, edited by Wayne Cowan (Association Press, New York, 125 pp. $2.50) This small book has contributions by six Roman Catholics and seven Protestants, including John C. Bennett, C. Stanley Lowell, Father Gustave Weigel, and William Clancy. It is a valuable contribution to the growing "dialogue" between the two groups.

The Presbyterian Way of Life by John A. Mackay (Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 2 pp., $3.50) The recently retired president of Princeton Theological Seminary discusses t Presbyterian understanding of God, Man and the Church, and adds chapters on the church a the world, the global family of faith, and Presbyterians and the Church Universal. Other titl already published in this series deal with the Episcopalian, Methodist, and Congregational "wa of life."

The Church in the World of Radio-Television by John W. Bachman (Association Press, New York, 191 pp. $3.50) A Union Seminary professor in an interesting appraisal of the advent electronic or "post-literate culture" and the role of the Christian in this new world.

Religions of the East by Joseph M. Kitagawa (Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 319 pp. $4.5 "Are there not counterparts of the church—'the holy community' of Christianity—in other ligions? If so, what are the ethos and structure of the 'holy communities' of Eastern religion These are the questions Dr. Kitagawa raises and answers.

We Were Brought Together, Report of the National Conference of Australian Churches, 19 edited by David M. Taylor (Australian Council of Churches, Sydney, 181 pp. $3) In Febru of 1960 a cross section of men and women, old and young, lay and clergy, met for the first national conference of churches to be held in Australia. What they did and said, the speeches th heard from leading Christians such as Renuka Mukerji of India and Dr. Takenaka of Japan, Bible studies of Bishop Newbigin, and the story of the conference itself are included between covers of this book.

Bring Forth the Children by Yul Brynner (McGraw Hill, New York, 155 pp. $4.95) Subtit "A Journey to the Forgotten People of Europe and the Middle East," this book by actor Brynner is notable for the photographs by him and Inge Morath. In the foreword the UN Hi Commissioner for Refugees says the book is a direct call to everyone to support the world-wi movement that can give all refugees, and especially their children, a chance to start a normal a active life.

The Evangelical Church in Berlin and the Soviet Zone of Germany. This small 52 pp. paper bou book tells of the struggle Christians face as they confront the Communist State in East Germa It is illustrated and contains such documents as speeches by Communist leaders, the Ten Co mandments of Morality, caricatures of Bishop Dibelius' letters from the bishop to East Germ officials, and "an old-new Christmas song" in which the star of Bethlehem sheds a red light. concludes with the words that were at the close of the 1934 Barmen theological declaration which "ultimately turn the power of every totalitarian state to impotence": The Word of G shall stand forever.

Bridges to Understanding by Margaret Frakes (Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia, 134 pp. $2.5 *The Christian Century's* able associate editor writes about the academy movement in Europe a North America. Americans who have heard of the Evangelical Academies in Germany, Sigtu in Sweden, Iona in Scotland, may be surprised to hear of parallel movements in the U.S. in Mic gan's Parishfield, the Evanston Ecumenical Institute, Packard Manse, Kirkridge, the Austin Co munity, and others. Recommended for all interested in the laity and the renewal of the Church.

The New Year

Another year has passed, O Heavenly Father! We thank Thee that it was a time of grace, and we are not terrified by the thought that it was also a time for which we shall render an account; for we trust in Thy mercy. The New Year confronts us with its demands; and though we cannot enter upon it without humility and concern, because we cannot and will not forget the lusts of the eye that ensnared us, the sweets of revenge that seduced us, the wrath that made us irreconcilable, the coldness of heart in which we fled from Thee, yet we do not enter it altogether empty-handed. For we take with us the memory of fearful doubts which were set at rest, of anxieties which were solaced, of the downcast mind which was cheered and strengthened, of the glad hope which was not put to shame. Aye, and when in our melancholy moods we seek strength and encouragement in the thought of the great men, Thy chosen instruments, who in sharp trials and profound anxieties kept their souls free, their courage unbroken, the heavens open above them, then we also wish to add to theirs our testimony, convinced that even if our courage is but discouragement nevertheless, Thou art ever the same, the same mighty God who tires the spirits of men in combat, the same Father without whose knowledge no sparrow falls to the ground. Amen.

From "The Prayers of Kierkegaard" edited by Perry D. LeFevre, University of Chicago Press.

Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

The job of Christians is then not to say to the world: you have stolen our festival, this has nothing to do with you. Their job is to say: yes, this is your festival, too, but you can only celebrate it aright, if you recognize what it means: that the world, that you yourself are called to live by the light that is Jesus Christ.

The great promise of Christmas: peace in the world, peace in our families, peace in our hearts is for all those who will open their lives to the true light.

Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft
General Secretary
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

WORLD'S NEEDY REFUGEES

World Refugee Year has done much to help the world's homeless but the needs of thousands of refugees who cannot be resettled must be met. The Administrative Committee of the Division of Inter-church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., noted that despite the efforts of the Year there will be a "continued residue" of refugees who because of illness, age, or other reasons cannot be resettled overseas.

The World Council of Churches resettled nearly 10,000 refugees in the first nine months of 1960, Miss Janet Lacey of London, England, told the group. Miss Lacey, a member of the 12-member international and interdenominational committee, is director of Inter-church Aid and Service to Refugees of the British Council of Churches.

"World Refugee Year is by no means a dead duck," Miss Lacey told the committee. "Hundreds of thousands of refugees have found solutions to their problems because of the Year."

A partial report on the activities of the World Council of Churches during World Refugee Year was presented. Member churches have already pledged $4,600,000 to the largest single

(Continued on page 6)

World Refugee Year did not end the problems of the world's refugees. But it did alleviate the plight of many aged and so-called "hard core" refugees who found homes after many years of stagnation in camps. The dramatic exodus, the crossing of frontiers, excites the imagination but the public often loses interest later.

LONDON: The annual report of the British Council of Churches' Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service describes how $3,500,697.20 was spent on meeting acute human need in the 12 months ending on 30th September—a year of unprecedented giving.

Because eight months of Inter-Church Aid's financial year overlapped World Refugee Year a very high proportion of the funds were allocated to the refugee work of the Churches.

The report states that: "Just as refugees are to be found in their millions in Africa and in Asia so also within these Continents are to be found millions of indigenous peoples suffering no less than the rootless ones who have come among them. To serve one and not the other would be unthinkable, and though in World Refugee Year our aid to non-refugees has been small by comparison with the massive refugee programs, it has been a token of Christian concern which we shall hope to express more forcibly in the future."

CHICAGO: Lutheran Bishop Anders Nygren of Sweden will arrive in Chicago on January 3, 1961 to spend fourteen months at the Ecumenical Institute in Evanston. Dr. Nygren is the second of the research scholars to join the Institute through a grant from the Danforth Foundation of St. Louis.

Week of Prayer

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity leaflets are available from the New York office of the World Council of Churches at $1.50 per hundred. Theme of the January 18-25, 1961, observance is "I am the Light of the World." The basic structure of the prayers is that which will underlie the New Delhi Assembly with its main theme, "Jesus Christ, the Light of the World."

REFUGEES *(Continued from page 3)*

refugee relief plan ever blueprinted by the churches. This is in addition to regular programs of the churches totaling millions of dollars.

The committee heard of the construction of church-sponsored homes for the chronic sick and aged in Europe, the Near East, and Australia. Special World Council projects aid primarily for local integration of refugees who cannot be moved from their countries of asylum. Vocational training programs and homes for the able-bodied are being provided.

The hope that governments will continue to apply liberal criteria for refugees in 1961 was expressed by the 12-member committee which includes inter-church aid and refugee relief officials from Asia, Europe, and the United States.

World Council of Churches
ROOM 439
475 Riverside Drive
New York 27, N. Y.

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
New York, N. Y.
Permit No. 3101

Library-Pacific School of Religion
1798 Scenic Ave.
Berkley, Calif.

WORLD YOUTH PROJECTS

by Umeko Kagawa

Beautiful Sicily has become a synonym for ime and poverty. A young man of the Wal- ensian (Protestant) Church of Vittoria in cily gave his church a small piece of land cated on the seashore.

Today this gift has become something of a nter of hope for Sicilian young people.

In 1950 a small local work camp built a house the seashore called "Adelphia." Adelphia is e Greek word for brother. It was intended to a place where Christian fraternity could be ed and preached.

When the youth of France heard about this oject, they sent money through World Youth ojects, a program of interdenominational in- -church aid for young people. At the same me a dozen Christian youth from France went Adelphia to help construct the buildings of e Center.

This project has become a witness in Sicily rough which youth see the possibility of a w life and participate in a wider community God's children on earth. The entire program World Youth Projects is based on the oinonia" or fellowship in the New Testament se. Without such real personal sharing the ogram is meaningless.

This kind of fellowship does not necessarily an personal presence. The young people in ailand who give a sum of money for the grant workers in the United States or those Indonesia who will give for the program to p young narcotics in East Harlem experience new kind of fellowship that transcends the riers of geography.

World Youth Projects is sponsored by the uth Department of the World Council of urches and the World Council of Christian ucation. In a truly ecumenical interchange give to one another what each is able to give. ving should be in every case a mutual inter- nge of resources—money, leadership, litera- e, correspondence, prayer. During the last ven years the total amount transmitted through rld Youth Projects has been $150,000.

The year 1960 will long be known as the year of African independence when many new states came into being, some quietly with little publicity and others more violently. World Youth Projects, a program of ecumenical sharing for young people, has as one of its goals the development of Christian leadership for youth in Africa.

Leadership training. New churches throughout the world are in need of good leaders of youth. To meet this need intensive leadership training conferences are planned in India, 1961; Brazil, 1961; and the Congo, 1960. Under the present circumstances in the Congo, it is not clear when this conference will take place, but we are convinced that when it does take place, the conference must provide more intensive training than has been provided before.

Youth Secretaries. In Turkey, Greek Orthodox young people are asking for a full-time director of a youth center and the Methodist young people of the United States are going to help.

(Continued on page 5)

1961 is the year of the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches. To keep abreast of developments, become a subscriber to all seven of the World Council's regular publications, for only $13.50. The Ecumenical Review at $3 per year and Ecumenical Press Service at $7.50 boat mail, $10 airmail, can be had separately.

World Youth Projects *(continued)*

A new relation is being established through ecumenical understanding and both Orthodox and Protestant young people are trying to draw near to one another.

Youth Centers. Very often youth in minority churches suffer from isolation from other youth. To bring a sense of unity and an awareness of being in communion, youth centers have much to offer young people. Adelphia in Sicily, Agape and Ecumene in Italy, Sutep in Thailand, Wilgespruit in South Africa, Bonhoeffer House in Berlin have been and are supported by World Youth Projects.

Gifts for the Friend Who Has Everything

World Council periodicals and publicatio enable you to keep up with current thought a action in the ecumenical movement.

Subscription schemes make it possible obtain World Council literature as easily possible at a minimum price. For $13.50 a ye a subscriber receives the quarterly Ecumeni Review, weekly Ecumenical Press Service, B letin of the Division of Studies, quarterly pu lication of the Youth Department, the bi-annu Laity Bulletin, the Inter-Church Aid Newsle ten times a year, and nine issues of the Eva gelism Monthly Letter.

Each periodical can, of course, be order separately. There are also other publications addition to the regular periodicals and these c be had for an entire year together with t periodicals for $26.50.

Checks should be made payable to the Wo Council of Churches and sent to Publicati Officer, Room 439, 475 Riverside Drive, N York 27, N.Y.

Enclosed is check for $ ..... for ☐ all

WCC publications, ☐ the seven periodicals.

Name .....

Street .....

City and State .....

THE ECUMENICAL COURIER is a bi-mont bulletin published by the United States Confere of the World Council of Churches, Room 4 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, N. Y. B Thompson, Secretary for Public Relations, edi The Council unites 178 Anglican, Orthodox Protestant communions in 53 countries. Nei the COURIER nor the World Council of Churc is responsible for opinions quoted in its colu